

## **REMARKS**

The Office Action of July 12, 2006, has been carefully considered.

It is noted that claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over the patent to Allen.

In view of the Examiner's rejection of the claims, applicant has amended claims 1, 10, 14 and 19.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims now on file differ essentially in and in an unobvious, highly advantageous manner from the methods and constructions disclosed in the reference.

As now recited in the claims, the present invention includes determining the number of building occupants using a destination call identification device. As described in the specification, such a device can be a destination call keypad placed at each floor and used to place elevator calls. Thanks to these destination call keyboards, the elevator control can determine how many building occupants are present on a predetermined floor. This information about the location of the building occupants is then used in the subsequent phases of the evacuation in order to optimize the evacuation strategy.

The patent to Allen discloses a multiple level building with an elevator system operable as means of emergency egress and evacuation during a fire incident. This reference has been discussed at length in previous amendments and in order to avoid redundancy, those comments are incorporated herein by reference. The following additional comments are provided.

Allen simply recites that a load sensor can determine the capacity of an elevator car during the evacuation without specifying or hinting that the number of floor occupants could have been estimated using the load sensor during normal use of the car and that this number is important and could have been used in the evacuation procedure. Without some suggestion or teaching along these lines, applicant respectfully submits that Allen does not disclose the presently claimed invention.

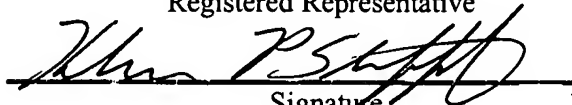
In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1-22 under 25 U.S.C. 102(b) over the above-discussed reference is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450:

Klaus P. Stoffel

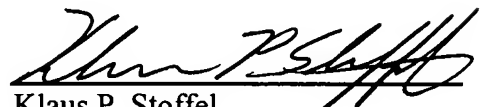
Name of applicant, assignee or  
Registered Representative

  
Signature

October 12, 2006

Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,



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